

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-17

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E. O. 11652: ADS DECLAS 4-30-73

TAGS: PFOR, AR

SUBJ: SECRETARY' S FOREIGN POLICY REPORT FOR 1972-
ARGENTINA SECTION

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SECTION ON ARGENTINA OF
SECRETARY' S FOREIGN POLICY REPORT FOR 1972, TO BE RELEASED
TO PUBLIC APRIL 19:

QUOTE: ARGENTINE- US RELATIONS WERE ENHANCED BY SEVERAL
BILATERAL AGREEMENTS IN 1972. A NEW EXTRADITION TREATY,
REPLACING ONE 80 YEARS OLD, ENABLES OUR TWO NATIONS TO
COOPERATE IN COMBATTING MODERN CRIMES SUCH AS AIR PIRACY,
INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, AND NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING. A
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON NARCOTICS ABUSE CONTROL WAS
ALSO SIGNED; A LONGSTANDING PROBLEM ON THE RECIPROCAL PAY-
MENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS WAS SOLVED BY AN EXCHANGE
OF NOTES; AND A BILATERAL AGREEMENT ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECH-
NOLOGICAL COOPERATION WAS REACHED.

THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT IN 1972 PRESSED FORWARD WITH ITS
PLANS FOR RETURNING THE COUNTRY TO CIVILIAN RULE.
ELECTIONS WERE SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 1973. THE POLITICAL
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PROCESS WAS OPENED TO ALL BUT EXTREMIST ELEMENTS, AND THE GOVERNMENT SOUGHT TO REINCORPORATE THE FOLLOWERS OF FORMER PRESIDENT JUAN PERON INTO THE NATION'S POLITICAL LIFE. ON NOVEMBER 17 PERON RETURNED TO ARGENTINA FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE HE WENT INTO EXILE IN 1955. THE GOVERNMENT HAD PREVIOUSLY GIVEN ASSURANCES IT HAD NO OBJECTION TO HIS LDBE OF A VETO AT THIS TIME. IN MANY YEARS AT UN BUSINESS, I NEVER EXPERIENCED A SITUATION WHERE THERE SUCH APPARENT IMMEDIATE AND ADVERSE IMPLICATIONS INHERENT IN A NEGATIVE US VOTE. WIDESPREAD INTEREST IN THE DEBATE HAS BUILT UP HERE AND US ATTITUDE IS BEING FOLLOWED MINUTELY. OUR VOTE TO AN UNPRECEDENTED DEGREE IS SHAPING UP AS TOUCHSTONE OF OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD LEBANON. A VETO WOULD BE TAKEN BY MANY LEBANESE AS WELL AS PALESTINIANS AS CERTAIN EVIDENCE OF AMERICAN COLLUSION IN THE ISRAELI RAID. EVEN AN ABSTENTION WOULD HAVE ADVERSE REPERCUSSIONS IF IT WERE FOLLOWED BY FURTHER ISRAELI ATTACKS. IMPLICATIONS OF THIS IN LIGHT TENSE ATMOSPHERE HERE SHOULD BE APPARENT TO ALL WHO HAVE FOLLOWED OUR REPORTING SINCE BEIRUT ATTACK. SEPTTEL UPDATES CURRENT ATMOSPHERICS, INCLUDING DANGEROUS ESCALATION OF ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT RIGHT NOW. BUFFUM

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